

### 3. A NOTE ON THE BIRTH OF A MALAYAN GIANT SQUIRREL (*RATUFA BICOLOR*) IN CAPTIVITY

A female Malayan Giant Squirrel (*Ratufa bicolor*), living with a male of the same species since 17 June, 1971 at Nandankanan Biological Park, Orissa gave birth to a female young on 15 July 1972 in one of the wooden boxes kept inside the squirrel cage.

At birth the young weighed 77 gm and measured 29.5 cm including the 12.5 cm long tail. The upper parts of the body coat were black whereas the under parts were light brown. The eyes were closed at birth and opened on the 22nd day (5 Aug. '72). At the age of two weeks the young was fully haired and the brown colour of the underparts gradually turned to white. The mother used to collect leaves and small branches from a plant inside the cage and keep inside the wooden box probably to use as bedding material or to conceal the baby. The mother carried the young by her teeth till the young was 8 weeks old while she jumped from one box to another. The baby was lifted by holding a fold of skin at the back with the teeth, or lifted the young by holding the base of one of the hind limbs. At times the young one used to make the typical giant squirrel call, immediately drawing the attention of the mother. The young was once seen taking banana for the first time at the age of five weeks and was able to come out and get into the wooden box kept at a height of about 90 cm from the ground on a wooden post at the age of eight weeks. It measured 59 cm from nose tip to tip of tail and weighed 445 gm at the age of two months.

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### 4. A WHITE INDIAN GERBIL, *TATERA INDICA INDICA* HARDWICKE

A pregnant female Indian Gerbil, collected from natural pastures in Jodhpur, delivered a litter of four in the laboratory. One of the offsprings, a female, was much paler than the rest. When pelage developed, it bore pure white hair over the entire body including the tassel at the tip of the tail, the eyelashes and hair on the plantar sur-